



## March 2024

*The INTERCOM is the RMR family's newsletter, which originally started as "The Bugler" in 1914 on the troopship carrying the 14th Bn (RMR) overseas. Censorship quickly squashed the initiative, but the RMR tried again in 1916 with "The Growler" (which was also squashed!).*

*In WW2 the RMR had two battalions, one overseas from 1939-45, and a Home unit stationed in Westmount. In an effort to boost morale and keep the lines of communication open between the two battalions, the "Intercomn" ("n" intentional) was born.*

*The current "Intercom" (masthead from above is from the 1950's) is published monthly and is intended to keep the friends & family of the Regiment up to speed with the accomplishments of the current serving members of the Regiment and all affiliated organizations.*



*Warrant Officer Jonathan Carson delivers First-Aid refresher training to RMR members in the armoury's basement classroom, 04 February 2024. Photo credit: MWO James Quesnel*

Greetings,

The RMR Family lost a dear friend in February. Comrade Les Newman of RMR Association (Branch 14) died on 13 February 2024. There will be a memorial service held this Spring, and details will be shared in the Intercom. You can [read more about Les here](#).

Our affiliated Cadets have been quite active this year, collaborating together for training, sports competitions, and music training for their bands. Congratulations to the cadets of 1 West Montreal Squadron who won the RMR Basketball Tournament last weekend! The RMR Foundation has committed to financially supporting the RMR's four affiliated Cadet units in their joint endeavours and is pleased with the progress they're making.

One of the articles below tells the story of how 588 Eric Simms Squadron recently hosted a citizenship ceremony for 49 new Canadians. The RMR Association (Branch 14) is also planning to hold a citizenship ceremony in our Ste-Catherine Street armoury in April - stay tuned for more details.

Budget cuts have been affecting training for the RMR, so it looks like it will be a relatively quiet March for the serving battalion, and then things will begin ramping up again quickly in April. Before you know it, church parade will be here and then the summer individual training cycle begins.

On behalf of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel David Bensadoun, the Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Master-Warrant Officer James Quesnel, please accept our continued best wishes.

*Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.*



LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD  
Editor, Intercom

## Articles from the past month:



### MAKE IT MONTHLY!

Westmount, Quebec – 26 February 2024: The RMR Foundation has been successfully using CanadaHelps for more than a decade to process online donations and issue tax receipts immediately. As such, we are pleased to participate in **CanadaHelps “Make It Monthly”** challenge.

If you want to help make your donations to the RMR Foundation go further, please consider setting up a monthly donation because the RMR Foundation will earn an additional one-time \$20.00 donation for every monthly donation over \$20.00 set-up in March 2024. All you have to do is **click on the RMR Foundation donor page and select the “monthly” tab.**

[Learn how to 'Make It Monthly' here](#)



## **RIP: COMRADE LES NEWMAN**

Westmount, Quebec: 24 February 2024: The RMR Foundation regrets to announce the death of Comrade Leslie “Les” Newman, a longtime active member of RMR Association (Branch 14), Royal Canadian Legion.

*His obituary reads: Leslie Newman of St-Eugène passed away on Tuesday February 13th 2024 at the age of 84. Beloved husband of Linda Taylor. Father of Debra, brother of Douglas and Laurence (Barbara). Also survived by nieces and nephews. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Desforges Funeral Home, 188 rue Principale, Grenville, QC (819) 242-2113. A private service will be held at a later date.*

Les had been highly active in the RMR Family’s social life as well as the Branch 14 activities. Originally serving as a Bandsman, he was instrumental in helping training multiple generations of Cadets in drumming. Les made an impact on multiple generations of RMR soldiers, as well.

It is not an exaggeration to state that the success of the annual Poppy Campaign hinged a great deal on his active and regular participation. He made a tremendous personal sacrifice every day of the 2-week annual Poppy Campaign, driving over 160 km daily to serve a 10-hour shift at the RMR Association’s poppy kiosk in Alexis-Nihon.

He was always willing to lend an ear to help a fellow Legion comrade, a Cadet, a soldier, an NCO, or an officer talk through whatever problems they were facing, gently offering his perspective earned over years of experience. Wherever there was a RMR social gathering, Les was there – quietly mingling with all ranks and enjoying the camaraderie of the regimental family. He was in his element at these events and he will be sorely missed.

Lest We Forget.

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## RCACS 588 ERIC SIMMS HOSTS CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Author: Captain John Wylie, Unit Public Affairs Representative, RACCC 2806 Pointe-Claire (RMR)

Saint-Laurent, QC – Cadets from Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron (RCACS) 588 Eric Simms hosted a Citizenship Ceremony for 49 new Canadians at the Centre des Loisirs de Saint-Laurent on Saturday, January 20, 2024. This is the third time that the cadets have hosted such a ceremony in recent years, and for some like Cadet Commander, Warrant Officer First Class C. Velentzas, those grandparents emigrated from Greece the ceremony took on special significance. *“They participated in their own citizenship ceremony [years ago] and now I am part of hosting a citizenship ceremony, it’s like I have gone full circle.”*

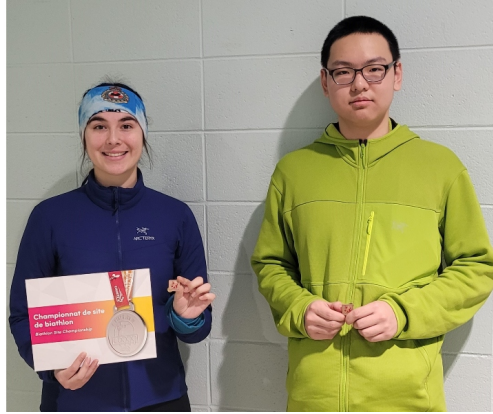
[Read the full article here.](#)



## FIRST-AID REFRESHER FOR THE RMR

Westmount, Quebec – 04 February 2024: The Royal Montreal Regiment recently conducted its annual First-Aid refresher training right within the historic walls of its armoury on Ste-Catherine Street. This vital training ensures that our members are equipped with the necessary skills to respond effectively in emergencies, both on and off the battlefield.

[Learn more by reading the full article here.](#)



## SILVER MEDAL BIATHLON FINISH FOR 2806

Author: Captain John Wylie, Unit Public Affairs Representative, RCACC 2806 Pointe-Claire (RMR)

Valcartier, QC – 11 February 2024: The Cadet Regional Biathlon Championship for Montreal was held at the Centre de biathlon Myriam Bédard located at CFB Valcartier from January 28, 2024 to January 29, 2024. There were a total of 47 competitors from five different cadet corps and squadrons from the Island of Montreal competing for a chance to move onto the provincial championships scheduled for the weekend of February 17-18.

This was the first year that RCACC 2806 Pointe-Claire sent cadets to this competition. This year's team was made up of Warrant Officer Lu and Chief Warrant Officer Gismondi who were competing, in the Open Boys 4.5 km Sprint and the Open Girls 4.5 km Sprint, respectively.

[Read the full article here.](#)



## POLISH SCOUTS ASSOCIATION VISITS RMR

Article written by Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz, Commanding Officer

Westmount, Quebec – 23 February 2024: A group of scouts from the Polish Scouts Association visited the RMR today. They were given a tour of the Officers' and NCO's messes and learned about the RMR – our work and our history. Afterwards, they were split into two groups with one group given a tour of the Museum by Ron Zemancik and the other an introduction to SATS under the supervision of Cpl Yeoung and Cpl Calixte. The scouts enjoyed the visit enough that their leader was keen to develop a deeper relationship with the RMR family through cooperation with our affiliated Cadet corps.

[Learn more by reading the full article here.](#)



Foundation

The RMR Foundation is a non-profit incorporated body with charitable status, designed to

*"Serve the best interests of The Royal Montreal Regiment and accept such tasks designated by the Trustees to help any member body of the Regimental Family."*

Donations help with providing emergency financial assistance to RMR soldiers identified by the chain of command, and providing relief to veterans of the RMR.

Beyond direct veteran support, the RMR Foundation provides assistance for the needs of the RMR family, advises on request, the CO of the RMR or any of its affiliated units, promotes the role of the Reserve Forces within the Canadian Armed Forces and the Regiment's affiliated municipalities, lobbies for the promotion of a more effective Canadian Defence Force, funds the operation of the RMR Museum's annual exhibitions, and supports the ***Je Me Souviens*** education program providing free materials to supplement Quebec's curriculum.

**[Please DONATE to support the RMR Family](#)**

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**[royalmontrealregiment.com](http://royalmontrealregiment.com)**



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